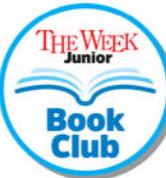


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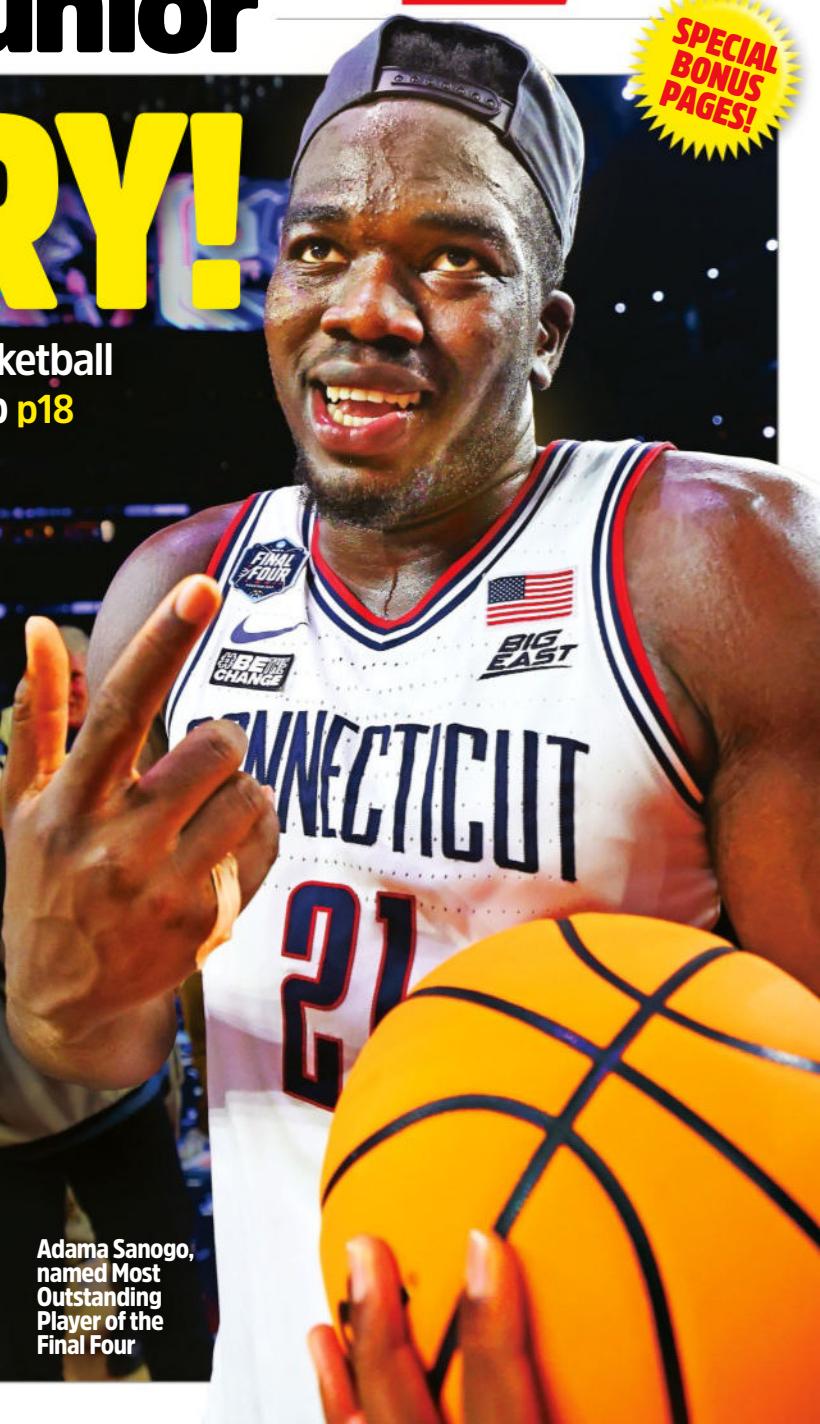
VICTORY!

University of Connecticut men's basketball
team clinches national championship p18

SPECIAL
BONUS
PAGES!



Louisiana State wins its
first-ever women's title



Adama Sanogo,
named Most
Outstanding
Player of the
Final Four



This week's big news

DID YOU KNOW?

New York City has five district attorneys, one for each of the city's five boroughs.



Donald Trump and his attorneys in court in New York City on April 4

Who is Alvin Bragg?



As the district attorney (DA) of Manhattan, in New York City, Alvin Bragg, age 49, prosecutes violations of New York state law. He was elected to the job in November 2021, becoming the office's first Black DA. He attended Harvard Law School and previously worked as a civil rights attorney and a prosecutor for the US.

Former President charged with crimes

On April 4, former President Donald Trump (who held the office from 2017–2021) was charged with crimes by a court in New York City. It is the first time in US history that a current or former President has faced criminal charges. Trump is also a Republican candidate for President in the 2024 election.

What happened?

Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, a Democrat, convened a grand jury in January. (A grand jury is a group of citizens who decide whether there is enough evidence to charge someone with a crime. They do not decide whether someone is guilty.) Members of the jury heard testimony about whether Trump did something illegal during the 2016 Presidential campaign. On March 30, they voted to indict (pronounced *in-dite*) Trump, which means to charge him with crimes. Five days later, Trump turned himself in to authorities and was arraigned (notified by a judge of the charges against him) in a courtroom. He pleaded not guilty to all charges.

What was he charged with?

Trump was charged with 34 counts of falsifying business records in the first degree. These are felony charges, which means they are serious crimes that can be punishable with a heavy sentence. The

charges stem from a \$130,000 payment his former attorney made to a woman known as Stormy Daniels. The payment was made in exchange for her silence on a matter Trump did not want made public before the 2016 election. Prosecutors (attorneys for the government) said that Trump's company recorded the payment improperly with the intent to commit and hide another crime. They did not say what the other crime was, although Bragg suggested it may have involved New York or US election and tax laws. Trump's company is based in New York City, which is why he was charged there.

How did people react?

For the most part, Democrats and Republicans (the two main political parties) reacted along party lines. Democrats emphasized the importance of ensuring that everyone, even a former President, is held to account. "Mr. Trump is subject to the same laws as every American. He will be able to avail himself of the legal system and a jury, not politics, to determine his fate," said Chuck Schumer, the Democratic leader of the Senate

(one half of Congress, the branch of government that makes laws). "The indictment of a former President is a serious moment for the nation," said Hakeem Jeffries, the top Democrat in the House of Representatives (the other half of Congress).



Protesters outside the courthouse on April 4

Senator Lindsey Graham, a Republican, said the indictment was "a shocking and dangerous day for the rule of law in America." Trump's former Vice President, Mike Pence, said, "The unprecedented indictment of a former President of the United States on a campaign finance issue is an outrage."

Trump said he is innocent and accused Bragg of trying to interfere with his Presidential campaign. Trump's lawyers said, "He did not commit any crime. We will vigorously fight this political prosecution in court."

What will happen next?

Trump returned to his home in Florida after the arraignment and will appear in court again on a future date. Trump's lawyers said they will ask the court to dismiss the charges. If that request is denied and the case goes to trial, the process could last a year or more, meaning it could take place during the heart of the 2024 Presidential campaign. Although no candidate from a major party has ever done so, Trump can run for President after being indicted or convicted of a crime. According to New York law, each count against him can carry a prison sentence of up to four years, although legal experts say it is unlikely Trump will face jail time. He may also face unrelated charges in other parts of the country. In Georgia, for example, a grand jury is considering whether he illegally tampered with the results of the 2020 election.

This week's big news



Finland becomes NATO member

On April 4, the Nordic nation of Finland, in Europe, became the 31st member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO, a military alliance of countries, mainly in Europe). Finland, which shares an 832-mile border with Russia, applied to join NATO after Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022. Finland's membership strengthens NATO's stance against Russia.

Finland and the nearby country of Sweden applied to join NATO at the same time and were quickly approved by all but two member nations: Turkey and Hungary. Turkey accused Finland of protecting people who oppose Turkey's government, and Hungary said Sweden was spreading lies about Hungary's government. Turkey and Hungary softened their position on Finland in recent days and approved its admission to NATO, but both are still blocking Sweden.

"It is a great day for Finland and...an important day for NATO," Sauli Niinistö, Finland's president, said as the Finnish flag was raised at NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.



Finland's flag



IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

AN ANCIENT FIND

A 9-year-old fossil collector named Eli made an exciting discovery at a UK beach. During a family outing, Eli spotted a fossil of an ammonite, a mollusk related to octopuses and squids. His first thought when he saw it was, "Oh my God, that's big!" Experts say it's 200 million years old.



Eli with the fossil

TRIPLE DIGITS

Soccer superstar Lionel Messi scored his 100th goal in men's international soccer—the third player to achieve the feat. Messi, captain of Argentina, the reigning world champs, hit the milestone in a game against Curaçao on March 28. By halftime, he had 102 goals. "He deserves all the praise," his coach said.



Lionel Messi



A seder plate for Passover

HOLY CITY
The city of Jerusalem, in the Middle East, is sacred to three major religions: Christianity, Islam, and Judaism.

Spring holidays observed worldwide

Around the world, two important spring celebrations are beginning: the Jewish holiday of Passover and the Christian holiday of Easter. Ramadan, the holy month for Muslims, began on March 22 and was covered in Issue 153.

From April 5–13, Jewish people will observe Passover. It honors the release of the Jews from slavery in Egypt thousands of years ago, as told by the Torah (Jewish religious text). On the first and second nights of Passover, people gather for a dinner called a seder and tell the story of Passover.

The Passover table holds a seder plate containing six symbolic foods. These include bitter herbs, which represent the bitterness of slavery, and matzo, which represents the unleavened (flat) bread said to be eaten by Jews fleeing Egypt.

This year, Easter falls on Sunday, April 9. In the Bible (Christian religious text), this is the

day Jesus Christ is reborn. The days leading up to Easter are known as Holy Week. Palm Sunday marks the day when Jesus arrived in Jerusalem before his death. Holy Thursday honors his Last Supper with his followers, and Good Friday marks the day he died.

Christians believe that Jesus was resurrected (brought back to life) on Easter Sunday. People commemorate the day by attending church services and gathering for meals. Some activities involve eggs, which are a symbol of new life.

On Palm Sunday, Pope Francis, the head of the Roman Catholic church, delivered a service to about 60,000 people gathered in St. Peter's Square in Italy. He urged people to care for those who feel alone. In Israel, children have a school holiday for Passover. Celebrations, parties, and concerts will take place across the country.

FOREVER FRIENDS

Best buddies Felix and Cinnamon—a dog and a goat—will stay together after being adopted by a family in North Carolina. An animal shelter had taken in the "truly bonded" pair when their owner couldn't care for them, and staff hoped they wouldn't be separated. "We hope they have many happy years together," they said.



Cinnamon and Felix



National news



WOW!
Phoenix, Arizona, has more sunshine per year than any other major metropolitan area in the US.

Passports in demand



There has been a record surge in applications for US passports, the State Department (part of the government that carries out foreign policy) has announced. About 500,000 applications are being received per week, 40% more than last year. Processing can take 10 to 13 weeks.

Census shows population shifts

The nation's population patterns are moving back to what they were before the pandemic, a new study by the US Census Bureau has found. (The Census is the count of the US population that is done every 10 years.) The 10 fastest-growing US counties in 2022 were in the South or West, and some cities regained population they had lost in the Covid-19 years.

What did the report find?

Maricopa County in Arizona, which includes Phoenix and Scottsdale, gained the greatest number of people (56,831) of any county in the US. The fastest-growing county was Whitman County, Washington, which had experienced a population drop of 9.6% between 2020 and 2021 but expanded by 10.1% last year. Six of the

10 counties that gained the most population in 2022 were in Texas, and three were in Florida.

What else did the study show?

Several large, urban counties either gained residents or slowed their population decline. In Texas, Dallas County lost more than 22,000 people during the first year of Covid-19 but then gained back nearly 13,000 in 2022. Miami-Dade County in Florida gained 3,416 residents in 2022 after losing nearly 30,000 people the previous year.

Why did these changes happen?

Population change occurs because people relocate or arrive from other countries. Sometimes populations shift because there

are more births than deaths (or more deaths than births). The Census Bureau said that many cities had an increased number of immigrants arriving in 2022. Some of the changes were due to large universities returning to in-person learning after being remote.

Why are the findings important?

Population determines how many seats each state gets in the House of Representatives (one half of Congress, the branch of government that makes laws) and how much money each state receives from the federal government. That money is used for many different purposes. These include paying public school teachers, providing job training, and operating buses and other forms of public transportation.

WORD OF THE WEEK

ROBOT

The word "robot" is one of the few English words to have come from Czech. From *robota*, meaning "forced labor," it was invented by writer Karel Čapek, whose play *R.U.R.* (or *Rossum's Universal Robots*) features human-like machines designed to perform boring or dangerous work.

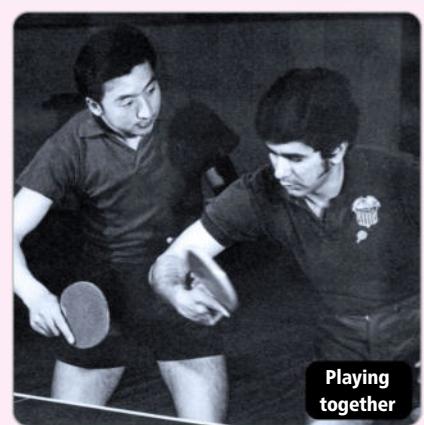


THE WEEK IN HISTORY

April 10, 1971

"Ping pong diplomacy" begins

On April 10, 1971, a US table tennis team arrived in China, becoming the first Americans to enter China in more than 20 years. The team was well received and became known for bringing the two countries together using what was called "ping pong diplomacy." Chou En-Lai, then China's top leader, said, "You have opened a new chapter in the relations of the American and Chinese people."



Playing together

National news



Crew chosen for Moon mission

The selection of four astronauts for Artemis II, the first crewed mission to the Moon in more than 50 years, was announced on April 3. They are (above, clockwise from front) Reid Wiseman, Christina Hammock Koch, and Victor Glover of NASA and Jeremy Hansen of the Canadian Space Agency. Artemis II, planned for a November 2024 launch, will fly beyond the Moon, possibly farther than any human has traveled.



Skateboarding stamps released

The US Postal Service has introduced four new stamps (shown above) celebrating skateboarding. Each "Art of the Skateboard" Forever stamp was designed by a different artist. "People don't really give credit to how skateboarding has helped communities and changed the mindsets of many people across the nation," said one of the artists, Di'Orr Greenwood, a Navajo skateboarder.



Cat chosen as Cadbury Bunny

Crash, an 8-year-old cat from Boise, Idaho, was chosen to be the 2023 Cadbury Bunny. The first cat to win the title, he lost one eye in a car accident and lives in a local shelter. In its fifth year, the contest spotlighted rescue animals. Crash will be featured in the Cadbury "Clucking Bunny" commercial and inducted into the company's hall of fame. He will also receive a cash prize for himself and a shelter.

New study challenges image of T. rex

The Tyrannosaurus rex is known for having large, sharp teeth that stick out of its mouth. That perception may be wrong, according to a new study suggesting that the dinosaur's teeth were hidden behind thin lips when its mouth was closed.

Paleontologists (scientists who study fossils) measured the difference between the skull size and tooth size of two types of reptiles: theropods (a group of dinosaurs, including T. rexes and velociraptors, that were believed not to have lips) and modern-day monitor lizards (including komodo dragons, which have lips). The scientists, led by Thomas Cullen of Auburn University in Alabama, found that the relationship between skull size and tooth size in the theropods was not significantly different from the size relationship found in the lizards. Since lizards can fit all their teeth under their lips, Cullen and his team concluded that theropods could have done that too.

The scientists also compared the teeth of theropods and modern-day crocodiles, which do not have lips. They found that dinosaurs had more layers of enamel (a protective layer) on their teeth than crocodiles do. This suggests that theropods had lips to protect their teeth from wear and tear.

Some scientists are not convinced that T. rex had lips. An earlier study led by paleontologist Thomas Carr of Carthage



T. rex with and without lips

DID YOU KNOW?
The largest and most complete T. rex fossil, nicknamed Sue, is on display at the Field Museum in Chicago, Illinois.

College in Wisconsin found that the dinosaur's snouts were covered with scales and had no tissue for lips. Cullen and Carr agree that the debate will probably continue until

the discovery of a better preserved fossil with its facial tissue intact. "I think the day will come where somebody will find a fossil mummy of a Tyrannosaur," Carr said. "In the meantime, we won't truly know."

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Bear plays with soccer ball, climbs on trampoline in New York yard" UPI





Around the world



Passengers are not allowed on scooters.

France New rules for electric scooters

In an effort to improve safety, the French government announced that people will now have to be at least 14 years old to ride an electric scooter on roads in France. Prior to the new guidelines, riders had to be 12. Fines will also increase from about \$38 to about \$150 for people caught carrying a passenger, which is not allowed. On April 2, residents of Paris, the nation's capital, voted overwhelmingly to ban the scooters there, starting in September.



Llanito is spoken in Gibraltar.

Gibraltar Local language at risk of dying out

Experts worry that a local dialect is dying out in Gibraltar, a British territory on the southern coast of Spain. The Llanito language developed from a combination of English and Spanish words. Now, though, English and Spanish are taught in schools, so young people don't use Llanito much and it's mostly spoken by older people. Local resident Mark Sánchez told *El País* newspaper that Llanito "defines who we are."



Rome, Italy Lab-grown meat to be banned

Lab-grown meat will be banned in Italy to protect farmers and national traditions, officials have announced. Some people say meat grown in a lab is better for animals and the environment, but the Italian government says this process doesn't guarantee quality. Officials have also banned flour made from insects from being used in pizza and pasta dishes.

Ukraine

Star Wars actor voices alerts

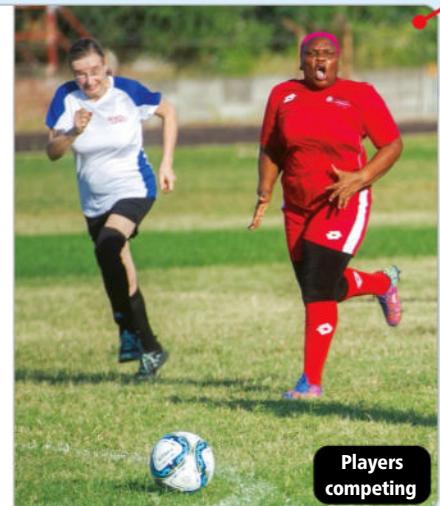
Actor Mark Hamill, who plays Luke Skywalker in the Star Wars franchise, has lent his voice to an air-raid alarm app in Ukraine. His recorded messages tell people when to take cover and when it's safe to go outside. Hamill also says, "May the force be with you." One app user said this message made her laugh, which gives her strength.

Mark Hamill
of Star Wars



Limpopo, South Africa Grandmas take the field

The Grannies International Football Tournament, for female soccer players ages 55 and up, has kicked off in Limpopo province. The home team, Vakhegula Vakhegula, was created in 2007 and has inspired similar clubs around the world. Teams from 14 countries, including the US, are taking part in the event. US player Mo Kelly, age 64, told reporters, "We love it. It means so much to us. It's a community. It makes us healthy."



Players competing

Around the world



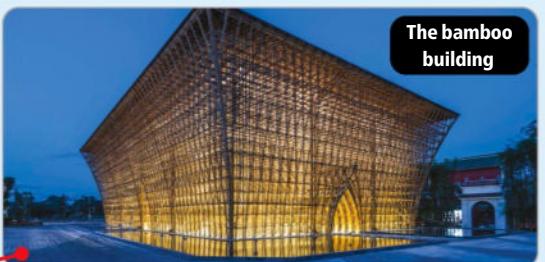
Afghanistan School activist arrested

Matiullah Wesa, who has worked to improve education for girls in Afghanistan, was arrested by the Taliban, a military and political group with extreme views that rules the country. His charity, PenPath, sets up classrooms and distributes books in violation of the Taliban's ban on girls attending school past sixth grade.



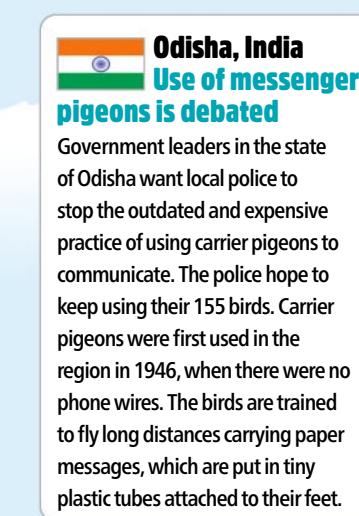
Chiang Mai, Thailand City has world's worst air quality

In a survey of 100 cities, Chiang Mai, in northern Thailand, was named the city with the worst air quality in the world. Smog blocks the view of nearby mountains, and people are advised to wear masks and avoid exercising outdoors. Government data shows that 1.32 million people became sick with illnesses related to pollution during the first nine weeks of 2023. Residents are campaigning for stricter rules on air pollution.



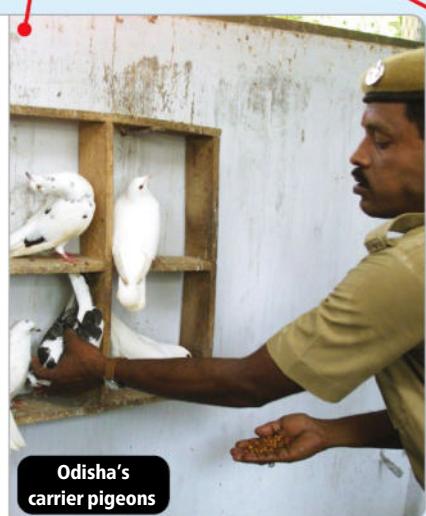
Phu Quoc, Vietnam Bamboo entrance is built

Visitors to Grand World Phu Quoc, an entertainment and shopping center in Vietnam, can now enter through a dramatic welcome center that was built from 42,000 culms (hollow shoots) of bamboo. Designers created arches, domes, angular grids, and skylights to enable the building to let in a significant amount of natural light. They also built doorways in shapes such as a lotus flower and a bronze drum.



Odisha, India Use of messenger pigeons is debated

Government leaders in the state of Odisha want local police to stop the outdated and expensive practice of using carrier pigeons to communicate. The police hope to keep using their 155 birds. Carrier pigeons were first used in the region in 1946, when there were no phone wires. The birds are trained to fly long distances carrying paper messages, which are put in tiny plastic tubes attached to their feet.



Odisha's carrier pigeons



Australia Big polluters must cut emissions

The Australian government has passed a law that will require major polluters, such as power stations, to reduce their release of greenhouse gases (gases that remain in Earth's atmosphere and trap heat, causing the planet to warm up). The new law is part of Australia's plan to reduce its total emissions by 43% by the year 2030.



The big debate

Should fans keep home run balls?

When a player hits a homer into the stands, fans can catch, keep, and even sell the ball.

What you need to know

- When a baseball player hits a home run out of the park, a new ball is substituted and the game continues.
- Fans are known to jump, dive, and scramble to catch home run balls. Some even buy certain seats where the ball is likely to land and bring baseball gloves to catch one.
- Home run balls can be worth a lot of money. The priciest baseball, hit by Mark McGwire for his 70th home run in 1998, sold at auction for more than \$3 million.

Last October, Aaron Judge of the New York Yankees hit his 62nd home run of the season, setting a new record for Major League Baseball's American League. A fan caught the ball that day—and later sold it for \$1.5 million. The same week, Cal Raleigh of the Seattle Mariners hit a home run to send his team to the playoffs, and the ball was caught by a teenager attending his first pro baseball game. "Nothing, nothing will ever compare to that moment," the teen said. But he didn't keep the ball. Knowing its importance to the team, he gave it back, and Raleigh gave him signed memorabilia in return. What do you think? Should fans keep home run balls?

YES Three reasons why fans should keep home run balls

- 1 Once a ball leaves the field, it no longer belongs to the player.
- 2 Whoever catches the ball has the right to do whatever they want with it, including selling it if they choose to.
- 3 Players won't miss one ball, but for a fan, it could become a lifelong memory and connection to the game.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote YES if you think fans should keep home run balls or NO if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.



Yes—it's a forever memory for a fan

Catching a home run ball is one of the most amazing experiences a baseball fan can have. Once that ball has left the field, it's not the player's property anymore. It belongs to the person who caught it, and they have the right to do whatever they want with it. That includes selling it and making money, if that's what they choose. Players hit so many balls in their careers that they won't miss one. But for a fan, the ball gives them a priceless connection to the game. If an adult catches a home run ball, they often give it to a nearby child, who will have a lifelong memory—and maybe become a lifelong fan.

No—the players should take priority

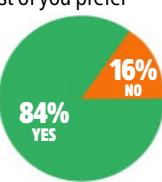
A home run ball belongs to the player who hit it out of the park. There's no reason for a fan to profit from someone else's accomplishment. Hitting a home run is a key moment in a player's career, especially if it breaks a record or wins the game. No one deserves the chance to hold on to that memory more than the player does. And if it is a historic moment, such as a record-setting home run or a World Series-winning hit, the ball should be preserved by the player, team, or league. Fans and collectors might not take care of it properly, and a piece of history could be lost forever.

NO Three reasons why fans should not keep home run balls

- 1 A home run ball belongs to the player who has trained for years to hit it, and no one else should profit from their effort.
- 2 Players deserve to be able to hold on to the keepsakes from important achievements in their lives.
- 3 Historic home run balls should be preserved for the team and league.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if it's important to have good manners. Most of you prefer to be polite: 84% of you said yes, while 16% said no.



The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.



Words of inspiration

Spelling bee winner Zaila Avant-garde is championing children's literature.

Zaila Avant-garde, who made history in 2021 as the first Black American to win the Scripps National Spelling Bee, is now an author with two children's books coming out this spring. Both are aimed at encouraging readers to think creatively about words.

"The idea of becoming an author was really fun for me," the now 16-year-old told *The Week Junior*. She said she has loved books since a very young age. One of her role models growing up was human rights activist Malala Yousafzai, who wrote *I am Malala*.

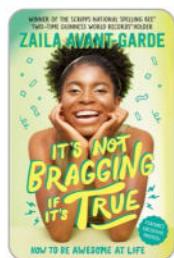
Avant-garde's first book, *It's Not Bragging if It's True: How to Be Awesome at Life*, will be out on May 2. It's a middle-grade book she co-wrote with Marti Dumas. In it, she shares personal stories, including what it was like to win the spelling bee, and

offers advice. She said she hopes to inspire kids to "embrace what makes you unique."

Words of Wonder from Z to A, her second book, will be published on June 27. It is a picture book filled with her favorite words, accompanied by quotes from notable people. Avant-garde has three younger siblings and said she was excited to write a book at their reading level.

Avant-garde is set to write four more books, a deal that she told *The Week Junior* was "a dream come true." Another

dream of hers that came true was visiting the White House in 2022 and meeting with First Lady Jill Biden. She was also named *Sports Illustrated Kids'* 2021 SportsKid of the Year for her basketball skills. In the future, she said she hopes to study neurobiology at a school like Harvard.



Avant-garde's middle-grade book



RECORD BREAKER
Zaila Avant-garde has broken three Guinness World Records, including the most basketballs dribbled at once by one person.

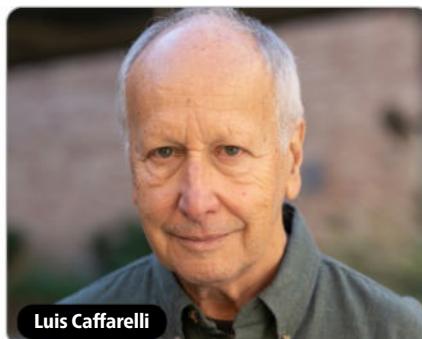
Zaila Avant-garde

A basketball legend

Willis Reed, former star center of the New York Knicks, died on March 21 at age 80. Reed was born and raised in rural Louisiana. The two-time All-American athlete joined the National Basketball Association (NBA) in 1964 when he was drafted to the Knicks, the team he spent his entire career playing for. Nicknamed "The Captain," Reed is best remembered for leading the Knicks to their first-ever NBA championship title in 1970. In 1982, he was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame.



Willis Reed



Luis Caffarelli

Math prize awarded

Argentinian mathematician Luis Caffarelli, age 74, was awarded the Abel Prize by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters. Caffarelli is the first person from South America to win the prize, which pays tribute to a mathematician's lifetime achievements. His best-known work is on partial differential equations, which help scientists model the natural world. Currently, he is a professor at the University of Texas at Austin. Of the Abel Prize, Caffarelli said, "I am glad that I have made contributions that are valuable."

OVERHEARD



"The more that we can share, the more we can lift each other up."

Actress Vanessa Hudgens, age 34, who is appearing in an upcoming documentary with her mother to explore their family's Filipino heritage



Animals and the environment



Better vision for penguins

Six penguins from a Singapore zoo have been given the gift of improved eyesight. The penguins had surgery to remove cataracts, a condition that interferes with vision. Three of the penguins (including Theo, shown below) were also fitted with custom lenses, which one doctor said was a "world-first" procedure.



Beach huts help African penguins

On the southern and western coasts of South Africa, tiny white huts have been appearing on beaches. The structures are being built to protect African penguin families from the hot sun—a strategy conservationists say is working.

African penguins spend most of their time in the cool water of the South Atlantic Ocean. But in order to breed and incubate (help to hatch) their eggs, they have to be on land. Unfortunately, the birds' black coats absorb heat from the scorching African sun. If they return to the water to cool off, they cannot guard their eggs and young chicks from predators.



These huts were built to protect the penguins.

To stay safe and cool, the penguins would usually dig burrows in layers of guano (bat and bird poop) that had built up over thousands of years. However, in the 1800s, traders collected most of the guano and sold it as fertilizer. Due to this loss and other threats such as overfishing of their prey, the penguins' population has fallen from about 3 million to fewer than 50,000 birds.

The African Penguin Nest Project set out to solve the problem by creating artificial nests. The nests are made from fabric and ceramic and shaped into dome-like structures just large enough to fit two penguin

parents and their chicks. White paint on the outside of the structure reflects sunlight, and small ventilation holes allow cool air to flow through the nest, keeping the inside at a safe temperature of 95° F or lower.

The first artificial homes were placed on the beach in 2018. "Within a matter of minutes, penguins were running into them," project coordinator Kevin Graham told CNN. "That tells you how desperate they are for any opportunity to find a safe place to nest." Now more than 500 nests have been installed, and at least 99% of them are being used. Local conservationists say the huts are helping penguin chicks survive and are therefore an important step toward saving the species. "It's a big part of it," Graham said, "but there has to be more."



PLACE OF THE WEEK

Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado

This national park was designated a Unesco World Heritage Site in 1978 because of its ancient dwellings dating back to the 6th century. The 52,000-acre park was the home of the ancient Pueblo people and is sacred to 26 tribes. Its landscape is defined by dramatic mesas (mountains with a flat top), canyons, and cliff dwellings. This expanse is home to about 200 species of birds, such as the Mexican spotted owl; 74 different mammals, including wild horses; and more than 1,000 types of insects, including the black swallowtail butterfly.



A wild horse

Animals and the environment



An unexpected wildlife sanctuary

A strip of land that runs between North and South Korea, setting a boundary between the countries, has unexpectedly become a wildlife haven.

The land, known as the demilitarized zone (DMZ), was blocked off when the Korean War ended. Both countries had been at war since 1950, when the North invaded the South. The fighting ended in 1953, and the DMZ was created as a buffer zone between the two countries.

Since then, human activity in the 150-mile-long area has been restricted,

which has helped nature thrive. Scientists, who were allowed into the DMZ for research, have found 6,168 species of wildlife living there. This includes golden eagles, mountain goats, wildcats, lizards, and otters, as well as flowers and herbs. Using remote cameras, they were also able to spot an Asiatic black bear cub, which has provided hope for this threatened species.

The DMZ is not open to the public, but approved agencies give tours, and Google has revealed 360-degree images that show a glimpse of the thriving wildlife.

Animal of the Week

Pygmy slow loris



A pair of pygmy slow loris twins were born at the Lake Superior Zoo in Minnesota. This is the second set of twins born to loris parents Giorgio and Colby in a year. The primates, found mainly in Southeast Asia, are endangered in the wild.

- **LIFE SPAN:** 10 to 20 years
- **HABITAT:** Forests, typically in tree branches
- **SIZE:** About 6 to 10 inches long
- **DIET:** Tree sap, gum, nectar, and insects
- **FUN FACT:** Large eyes help them see in low light but make it difficult to handle bright light.



Good week / Bad week



Fin whales

Last year, a group of whales near Antarctica was caught on video. According to a new study, the group contained about 970 fin whales, one of the largest groups ever recorded. The whale's population is rising after a drop in the 1900s.



Purple martins

The number of purple martins in North America has been declining. A recent study found that the birds are consuming mercury, a toxic metal, while spending winters in the Amazon basin, which may make them unable to migrate.



Jordan Baur

Keeper,
Denver Zoo

Bees buzz mostly because of how fast their wings beat—up to 230 times per second! Some buzz while on flowers to make pollen fall. Honeybees also buzz to help cool or warm the hive. My favorite reason is for communication! Bees communicate in many ways, but buzzing is easiest to notice.

"Why do bees buzz?"

Vera, 11, Indiana



A honeybee

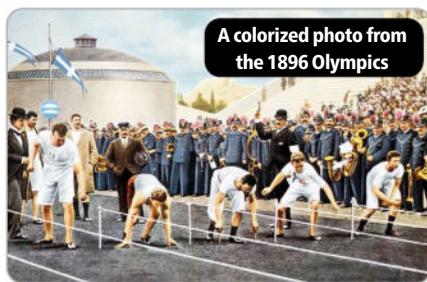
Do you have a question for a zookeeper? Send it to hello@theweekjunior.com. Find out more about Denver Zoo at denverzoo.org.



A running tradition

Boston's 26.2-mile road race is the world's oldest annual marathon.

The Boston Marathon is one of the most prestigious running competitions in the world. This year it will take place on April 17.



A colorized photo from the 1896 Olympics

Ancient origins

The roots of all marathons go back to a legend from Ancient Greece about a soldier who ran from the Greek town of Marathon to Athens, to bring news of victory by the Greek army. To honor that legend, the first-ever marathon was held at the 1896 Olympic Games in Athens. This inspired John Graham, the US Olympics team manager and a Boston Athletics Association member, to organize the first Boston Marathon in 1897. That race, won by John McDermott of New York, had 15 runners who competed on a course that was 24.5 miles long. In 1924, the race went to its current distance of 26.2 miles, as the Olympics had officially adopted that distance.



The marathon today

The Boston Marathon has grown into one of the world's biggest distance races. In 2022, 28,580 people participated in the marathon. It is held on Patriots' Day, a Massachusetts state holiday celebrated on the third Monday in April in honor of the start of the American Revolution. A distinguishing feature of the Boston Marathon is that most runners must qualify. Men ages 18–34 have to have run a previous marathon in 3 hours or less, while the qualifying time for women in that age group is 3½ hours or less.



The start of the Boston Marathon in 2022

Record holders

Geoffrey Mutai

Geoffrey Mutai of Kenya set the course record for men at the 115th Boston Marathon in 2011, finishing in 2 hours, 3 minutes, 2 seconds.



Buzunesh Deba

A runner from Ethiopia, Buzunesh Deba, set the course record in Boston for women in 2014. She ran the race in 2 hours, 19 minutes, 59 seconds. Deba has placed in the top 10 at the Boston Marathon four times.





like no other



Expanding the field

Today thousands of women and adaptive athletes compete in the Boston Marathon, but that was not always the case. The first woman to complete the marathon was Roberta Gibb, who snuck into the race in 1966. The next year, Kathrine Switzer became the first woman to get a bib (the tag worn by competitors showing their race number) after signing her application with her initials, which kept her gender hidden. When it became clear during the race that she was a woman, an official unsuccessfully tried to push her off the course. In 1972, the first year women could officially enter, eight women competed and Nina Kuscsik had the fastest time. In 1975, Bob Hall became the first athlete in a wheelchair to officially finish the race.



Boston strong

Tragedy struck the Boston Marathon in 2013 when, about five hours into the race, terrorists set off two bombs close to the finish line. Three people watching the race were killed, and more than 260 were injured. After the attacks, the phrase "Boston Strong" became a popular slogan that captured the city's resilient spirit. April 15 is now officially recognized as One Boston Day to encourage volunteer service and acts of kindness. In 2019, a memorial to the three victims at the site of the bombings was completed. This year, to mark 10 years since the bombings, the city will hold a remembrance event the Saturday before the race.

Marcel Hug

In 2017, Swiss adaptive athlete Marcel Hug won the Boston Marathon in the men's wheelchair division and set a new course record with a time of 1 hour, 18 minutes, 4 seconds. Hug is a five-time winner of the event.



Manuela Schär

Manuela Schär from Switzerland set the course record in the women's wheelchair division in 2017, in 1 hour, 28 minutes, 17 seconds. It was the first of her four Boston Marathon wins.





Science and technology

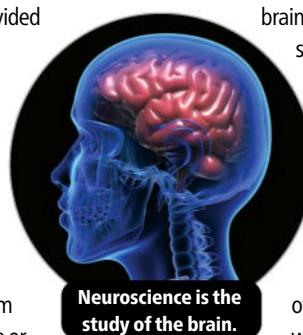


Working together bonds brains

Scientists from Keio University in Japan have discovered that when two people work together on a task, their brains synchronize (start working in the same way). This area of research is known as second-person neuroscience. It uses a technique called hyperscanning, which records the activity of multiple brains at the same time.

For the study, the scientists divided 78 people into 39 pairs. Each pair was asked to perform what the study called a "highly free and creative" task: to design and furnish a digital room inside a computer game. The partners sat opposite each other and completed the task together, creating a room that satisfied them both. There were no limits on time or how much they spoke to each other. Each partner also completed the task on their own.

The researchers videotaped the teams at work. Each participant was fitted with a special kind of headwear that monitored how the brain's neurons (nerve cells that carry information around the brain and to different parts of the body) reacted to different situations. The researchers were able to watch the video to see how often each pair looked at each other



and compare that with what was happening in their brains at the same moment.

When people were working together, groups of neurons in one participant's brain were activated—and similar groups were also activated in their partner's brain. Yasuyo Minagawa, a researcher on the study, said it was "as if the two brains functioned together as a single system for creative problem-solving."

The researchers called this brain activity "between-brain synchronizations." It increased when one person raised their gaze to look at the other, but it was strongest when both participants looked up at each other. The team concluded that when both partners look at each other, they're better able to understand and react to the other person's intentions and feelings. Minagawa said the study was consistent with a phenomenon known as the "we mode," which is when two people "share their minds."

The team will continue to explore how social interaction and brain function work together. Next, they will examine how interactions like conversations and facial expressions affect what's going on inside people's brains.

The power of daydreams



Many people think daydreaming is a waste of time. But science doesn't back that up. In fact, research has found that daydreaming about pleasant and meaningful things, like a happy memory or an event you're looking forward to, is good for you.

Scientists at the University of Florida found that daydreaming can help spark creativity and problem-solving abilities. It's easiest to do when your brain is minimally distracted with tasks like walking, brushing your teeth, or taking a shower. But letting your mind wander can also be its own reward. The ability to think this way "sets us apart," said researcher Erin Westgate. "It defines our humanity. It allows us to imagine new realities."



Moai statue discovered in dry lake bed

A new moai statue has been found on Rapa Nui, also known as Easter Island. The moai are massive human figures carved out of volcanic rock more than 500 years ago. The newly discovered statue was found in a dry lake bed in a volcano crater.

Rapa Nui is located in the Pacific Ocean, more than 2,200 miles west of Chile. It was originally settled by Eastern Polynesian people from the nearby Polynesian islands between the years 600 and 800. Islanders carved nearly 1,000 statues between the years 1100 and 1650. The figures are thought to represent their godlike ancestors.

Many moai stand up to 33 feet tall and weigh more than 80 tons.

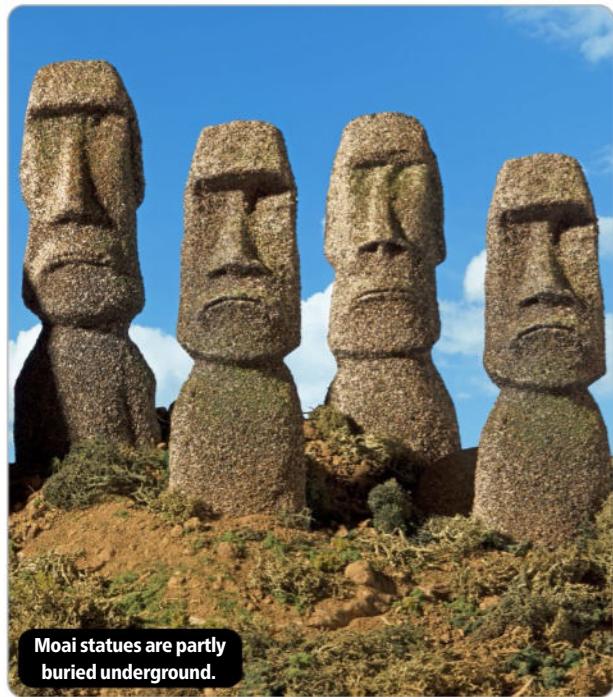
DID YOU KNOW?
Rapa Nui is the island's original name, but Europeans began calling it Easter Island when they arrived in the 1700s.

They are often positioned in rows atop stone platforms with their backs to the sea. The heads of the moai are their most well-known feature because the statues' bodies are often buried underground.

Today, Rapa Nui is a part of Chile, and the new moai was found by scientists from Chilean universities.

Smaller than other statues, it stands a little more than 5 feet tall. The lake it was found in was once about 9 feet deep but began drying out in 2018. Experts think the statue was carved elsewhere and put in the lake.

There are no current plans to move the moai, although experts hope to study it further. This discovery also indicates that there may be more moai to be found in the lake.



Moai statues are partly buried underground.



Robot vacuums use AI to function.

Robots predicted to do more housework

In a new study, scientists from Japan and the UK concluded that by 2033, the use of robots will enable people to spend 39% less time on everyday household tasks. The team polled 65 experts on artificial intelligence (AI, computer technology that lets machines imitate human intelligence by learning as they go along).

The AI experts were asked to make predictions about which of 17 tasks were most likely to be handled by robots within 10 years.

These tasks—such as grocery shopping, dishwashing, cooking, laundry, and taking care of children or the elderly—are mostly performed by women.

The experts said grocery shopping was most likely to be taken over by AI in the next few years. They believed robots will save humans 60% of the time spent on that task. Caregiving for a child or elderly person was the least likely to be performed by robots.



A greener way to heat homes



The new material

A UK company called iHelios has created a thin film that can replace traditional home heating systems. Called Radiant, it can be installed in the ceiling, under floors, or behind walls.

Traditional home heating systems, like radiators, heat up the air in a room. Radiant uses

electricity to produce infrared light, a source of energy that's invisible to the human eye but warms objects and people.

iHelios says the system cuts energy consumption by at least 30% and up to nearly 100%, in part by letting people heat only one room at a time.



Photos of the week



Frozen stroll

A penguin walks on an iceberg in this picture by Alex Pansier of the Netherlands.



Pretty in pink

A seahorse blends in with coral in this photograph by Charly Clérisse of France.



ALEX PANIER; MARCIO ESTEVES CABRAL; SUBRATA DEY; CHARLY CLÉRISSE; PIETRO FORMIS; JAMES HUNTER

Photos of the week



Night lights

The Milky Way glows above flowers in a photo by Marcio Esteves Cabral of Brazil.



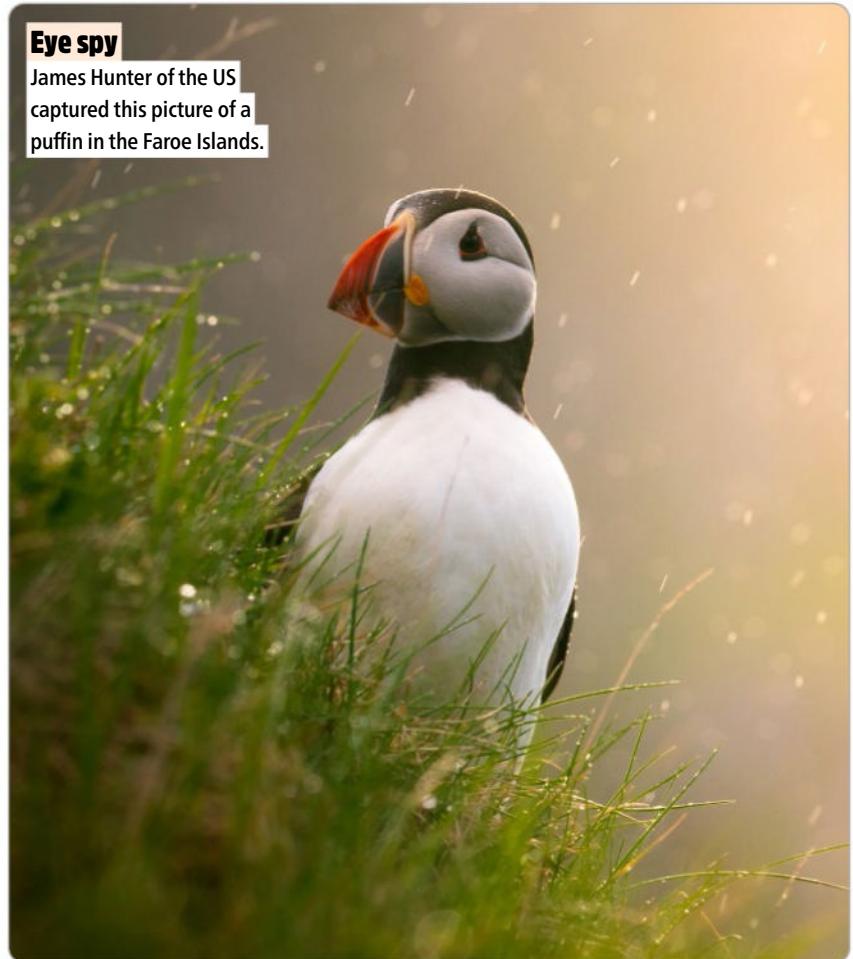
Flight crew

Thousands of parrots fly over crops in this image taken by Subrata Dey of Bangladesh.



Under the sea

Pietro Formis of Italy snapped this fish inside a trash bin on the ocean floor.

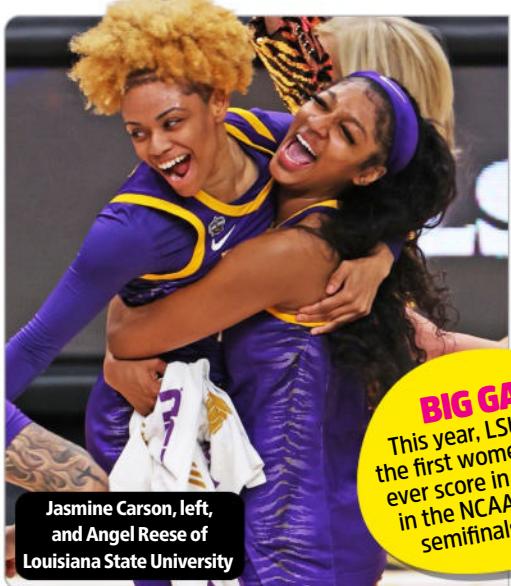


Eye spy

James Hunter of the US captured this picture of a puffin in the Faroe Islands.



Sports



Jasmine Carson, left, and Angel Reese of Louisiana State University



Donovan Clingan, left, and Adama Sanogo of the University of Connecticut

BIG GAME
This year, LSU became the first women's team to ever score in triple digits in the NCAA basketball semifinals or finals.

Award winners named



Caitlin Clark

The Naismith Awards are a top basketball honor named for Dr. James Naismith, who invented the game in 1891. This year's winners include Purdue's Zach Edey and Iowa's Caitlin Clark. She is the first NCAA player ever to record 900 points and 300 assists in a single season.

LSU, UConn clinch basketball titles

On April 2 and 3, the women's and men's National College Athletic Association (NCAA) basketball tournaments came to an exciting close after more than two weeks of competition.

Louisiana State University (LSU) won the women's title, and the University of Connecticut (UConn) won the men's title.

Third-seeded (ranked) LSU beat second-seeded University of Iowa, 102–85, for their first-ever national title. Iowa was favored to win the championship after they knocked out last year's winners, the University of South Carolina, in the semifinal. But Iowa was unable to match LSU's depth, talent, and athleticism on the court.

In the game's first quarter, the lead went back and forth. LSU seized control in the second quarter and led, 59–42, at halftime. Iowa cut the lead to 77–69 early in the fourth quarter but could not complete the comeback.

A surprise standout for LSU was guard Jasmine Carson, who came into the competition off the bench. She led the team with 22 points and had five three-pointers in the first half. LSU star Angel Reese was named Most Outstanding Player of the Final Four (semifinal and final games).

In the men's final, fourth-seeded UConn beat fifth-seeded San Diego State University (SDSU), 76–59. It capped off the team's dominant

tournament run, where they won all six of their games by double digits. Their average margin of victory was 20 points per game. This is UConn's fifth national title over the past 25 years.

UConn was in control for most of the final game, but the competition got exciting for SDSU fans in the fourth quarter. With UConn leading 56–41 with just under 10 minutes remaining, SDSU mounted a comeback. They cut the deficit to 60–55 with five minutes to play. After UConn's Jordan Hawkins hit a three-pointer to extend the team's lead to eight, they never looked back.

Following UConn's victory, forward Adama Sanogo was named Most Outstanding Player of the Final Four. He averaged 19.7 points and 9.8 rebounds per game.



The men's trophy

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

TRACK AND FIELD

More than 10 years after winning a silver medal in the 400-meter hurdles race at the 2012 Olympics, American Lashinda Demus has been awarded the gold. The original gold medalist, Natalya Antyukh of Russia, was stripped of her medals because she used illegal performance-enhancing substances. Demus, whose time was .07 seconds behind Antyukh, set an American record in the event.



Lashinda Demus at the 2012 Olympics

PRO BASKETBALL

On March 29, the Sacramento Kings beat the Portland Trail Blazers, 120–80, to clinch a spot in the National Basketball Association (NBA) playoffs. They had not made the playoffs in 16 seasons, the longest run of any NBA team.

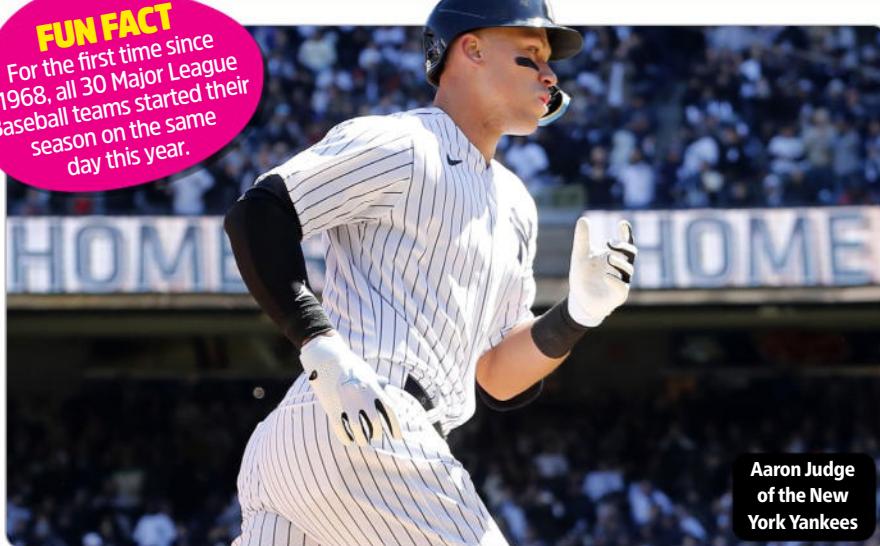
PRO SOCCER

Portland Thorns player Sophia Smith scored her first NWSL hat trick (three goals in one game) in a 4–1 win over the Kansas City Current on April 1.



FUN FACT

For the first time since 1968, all 30 Major League Baseball teams started their season on the same day this year.



Aaron Judge
of the New
York Yankees

MLB begins new season

On March 30, the 2023 Major League Baseball (MLB) season began. This year, the league implemented new rules designed to make games faster and more exciting.

The biggest change is the addition of a pitch clock. It limits how long players can take to enter the batter's box and how much time pitchers can take between throws. Violations result in an automatic ball or strike, depending on the offense. There were 14 violations on Opening Day, but the games were also 18 minutes shorter than the average game in the 2022 season.

The pitch clock rule also limits the number of times a pitcher can throw the ball to first base, which has increased stolen base attempts. Across the 15 Opening Day games, there were 21 steals

out of 23 attempts. Last year, there were five steals in nine attempts across seven games.

In addition, bases are three square inches bigger and there is now a limit to how far defensive players can shift their positions. The goal is to increase the odds of batters getting hits.

On Opening Day, New York Yankees star Aaron Judge, who broke the single-season American League home run record last fall, hit MLB's first homer of the 2023 season. Adley Rutschman of the Baltimore Orioles and George Springer of the Toronto Blue Jays, meanwhile, stood out with five hits in their own games. As for the 2022 MLB champions, the Houston Astros, they lost their first season opener in 10 years when the Chicago White Sox beat them, 3–2.



COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: Patricia Ui

Team: Lonestar Field Hockey Club

"Coach Pat has been my coach since I started playing field hockey in 2018. She always makes practice fun and she is very motivational. She has improved all aspects of my gameplay because she is always pushing me to be my best. She encourages me to take risks and try different things in practice, because that's the time to make mistakes and learn from them. She has helped grow my love of the game by being so supportive." Eliana, 12, Texas



To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to hello@theweekjunior.com. Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

SPOTLIGHT ON...



Miles Simon

AGE: 21 SPORT: SWIMMING
TEAM: HOWARD UNIVERSITY

Jumping in I started swimming in Mommy and Me classes at my local YMCA, then my parents put me in lessons on my own. I thought it was cool to be racing in the water—it was different.

Major moment Howard canceled our 2020–2021 season because of the Covid-19 pandemic, so I was at home training for a year.

I ended up making the 2021 Olympic trials. It was probably one of my biggest and most exciting accomplishments.



Training time In our off-season, we practice four or five times a week. In the regular season, it's about eight times a week. Swimming is hard—you can't really have a day off. A 50-yard freestyle race is two laps, and I swim that in about 19 seconds. Everything I do in practice goes toward that race. My favorite thing is the reward I feel as I touch the wall and see a good time or get a good place.

School style At Howard, we do meets differently than any other team. There's food, we have a live DJ, and dancers come out to do a little show. There's always energy in the crowd.

Getting ready Before a race, I go into a corner, play music, and focus. I get doubt and negative thoughts out of my head.

Big splash In February, our team won the 2023 Northeast Conference Championship. We went crazy. It was good to help get the team to that point.

Future plans I'm thinking about getting my master's degree in public health. I want to try to find ways to make people better or help them stay mentally healthy—especially in the sports world.



Arts and entertainment



Evan Whitten
in *Chupa*

Film about mythical creature

In the new Netflix film *Chupa*, an American boy bonds with a legendary chupacabra while visiting his family in Mexico.

In Latin America, the mythical chupacabra is a dog-like creature that sucks the blood of other animals. The new Netflix film *Chupa* is a story about a boy who meets one.

Chupa is set during the 1990s, when there were real news reports about goats in Puerto Rico being found with wounds resembling vampire bites. (*Chupacabra* loosely translates to "goat sucker" in Spanish.) The film's main character is Alex, a quiet 13-year-old who is visiting family in Mexico. As talk of chupacabra

sightings circulate, Alex finds and bonds with a chupacabra cub he names Chupa. "They are both alone and dealing with the loss of a parent," director Jonás Cuarón told *The Week Junior*.

When scientists begin a hunt for Chupa, Alex and his family must protect the creature and help him find his home. Through their adventure, Alex learns about family, friendship, and having pride in your heritage.

Cuarón has his own chupacabra connection. He grew up in Mexico and remembers seeing news stories about the animals. "There was something

fun about the idea of something magical being so close to my home," he told *The Week Junior*.

Chupa, who has fangs and wings, was created with visual effects. However, a dog named Harper often represented the animal in scenes with Evan Whitten, who plays Alex. "In a movie like this, the relationship between the boy and the creature is very important, so I wanted to make sure Evan had something he could interact with," Cuarón said.

Whitten, whose grandparents are from Mexico, said the film has a "beautiful" message. He told *The Week Junior*, "The most important thing that Alex learns is to always love your family and know they will always have your back."



Jonás Cuarón

3 mythical creatures

Unicorns

Descriptions of single-horned animals date back to Greece in 400 BCE. Drinking from a horn was said to be healing. European and Asian myths made them wise, magical horses.



Dragons

For centuries, folktales from the Middle East, Europe, China, and other regions included stories about winged, serpent-like beings that breathe fire. At times, fossils were mistakenly identified as dragon remains.



Mermaids

The common depiction of these beings is rooted in Greek and Roman myths, but the word "mermaid" is a compound of the Old English words "mere," meaning sea, and "maid," which means young woman.



Arts and entertainment



DID YOU KNOW?

In February, the first US-based Super Nintendo World theme park opened at Universal Studios Hollywood in California.



The Super Mario Bros. Movie

Mario comes to movie theaters

The world of Nintendo's popular Super Mario video games has expanded to the big screen. *The Super Mario Bros. Movie*, an animated action-adventure, is now playing in theaters.

The character of Mario, a plumber, has been a video game icon since appearing in Donkey Kong in 1981. In 1985, he began starring in his own games, which are set in the Mushroom Kingdom. The film tells the story of how Mario and his brother, Luigi, ended up there and has many Mario game characters.

Although actor Charles Martinet has voiced the brothers in the games for more than 30 years, he did not voice the characters in the movie. He does make a special voice appearance, however. Chris Pratt (Peter Quill/Star-Lord in the *Guardians of the Galaxy* films) voices Mario, and Charlie Day voices Luigi. Pratt said he "grew up loving the Super

Mario Brothers." Co-director Michael Jelenic was also very into Mario when he was young. He said one of his goals was to translate the emotions he felt playing Mario into what audiences will experience watching the film.

Jelenic and co-director Aaron Horvath studied Mario games to come up with the look of the movie world. "We took these iconic elements and pushed the level of detail to make them look believable, almost as if you could reach out and touch them," Horvath said.

Shigeru Miyamoto, the creator of the Super Mario games, was involved in the making of the film. He said it is for all types of people, not just Mario fans. In fact, Horvath and Jelenic said the film is really about perseverance. They told *The Week Junior*, "We hope that, like Mario, if you have a dream in life, you keep going and never give up."



Mario



READER RECOMMENDS

Descendants (Disney+, Prime Video, Google Play)

"This movie musical is about four kids whose parents are famous Disney villains. They have grown up on the Isle of the Lost, where all villains have been banished. In Auradon, the land of the good guys, a new prince gains power and gives the four kids a chance to attend a school in his world. While there, they find their kindness and courage—and also save the day when their evil parents invade. I recommend this movie because it teaches kids that you can be strong, and it is exciting and funny. I also love that everyone gets to fight, even the girls." Alice, 8, Montana

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.

THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST



The Croods: Family Tree (Peacock)

New episodes of the spin-off from *The Croods* films find the Croods and the Bettermans, two prehistoric families, on more funny adventures. Look out for a quest for a legendary stash of snacks and the discovery of an underground cave filled with amazing inventions.



The Hummingbird Effect (PBS) April 12 (PBS.org)

This documentary special heads to Costa Rica, where more than 50 species of hummingbirds live. Thanks to high-tech cameras, you'll get a close look at the country's jungles and forests and see how the birds deliver fruit to wildlife and help flowers blossom.



Boss Baby: Back in the Crib (Netflix)

The series based on the hit animated *Boss Baby* franchise is back for a second season. This time, baby Ted Templeton and his niece Tina are working together and running Baby Corp. They will take on new clients and have to battle a new corporate rival.



On screen



MAJOR MOMENT

Women's soccer teams were first added to the FIFA video game franchise in 2015.

NWSL teams added to FIFA 23

The most popular soccer video game in the world recently expanded its rosters. On March 15, an update to FIFA 23 brought all 12 clubs in the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) to the game for the first time. The NWSL is the top women's professional soccer league in the US.

The NWSL is the third full women's league to be added to FIFA 23. When the game launched last fall, it included the Women's Super League from England and the Division 1 Féminine from France. Before that, only women's national teams, including the one from the US, were part of the franchise.

The update includes each NWSL team's roster of real-world players, including stars Alex Morgan, Sophia Smith, and Mallory Swanson. Gamers can play NWSL teams in tournaments,

head-to-head seasons, co-op, and online friendlies. The game also has the league's jerseys, trophies, and some of their stadiums.

In addition to the NWSL, FIFA added four teams from the UEFA Women's Champions League (UWCL) to the game: Real Madrid C.F., VfL Wolfsburg,

Juventus, and Eintracht Frankfurt. The UWCL is an annual tournament that features the best pro teams across Europe.

Many soccer fans see the addition of the NWSL as a positive step toward equality, but not everyone has been happy with the update. Some players have said they do not like the way they look in the game, and others don't love their ability levels. EA Sports, the game's publisher, said they are addressing the issues and improvements will appear in future patches and updates.



PODCAST OF THE WEEK

POSITIVE KID VIBES

Apple Podcasts, iHeartRadio,

This new podcast aims to help young people work through daily challenges. In each episode, a counselor discusses topics such as anxiety, the best responses to bullies, and the causes of anger. She also shares affirmations, which are encouraging statements that can help during a tough time.

POSITIVE KID VIBES

CHANNEL OF THE WEEK



SCIENCE MAX

youtube.com/@ScienceMax

Funny host Phil McCordic dives into the world of science in this channel that covers a wide range of topics. Among the videos are demonstrations of fun experiments you can do at home. You can find out how to make a volcano out of baking soda and vinegar, an air-powered rocket, and more.

WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

BIRD ACADEMY PLAY LAB

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-BirdGames

If you love birds or just want to learn more about them, it's worth exploring this site from Cornell University. You can find information about extinct species and facts about feathers, plus play online games. There is also a section where you can mix together bird songs to create your own music.



THE WEEK
Junior

Book Club

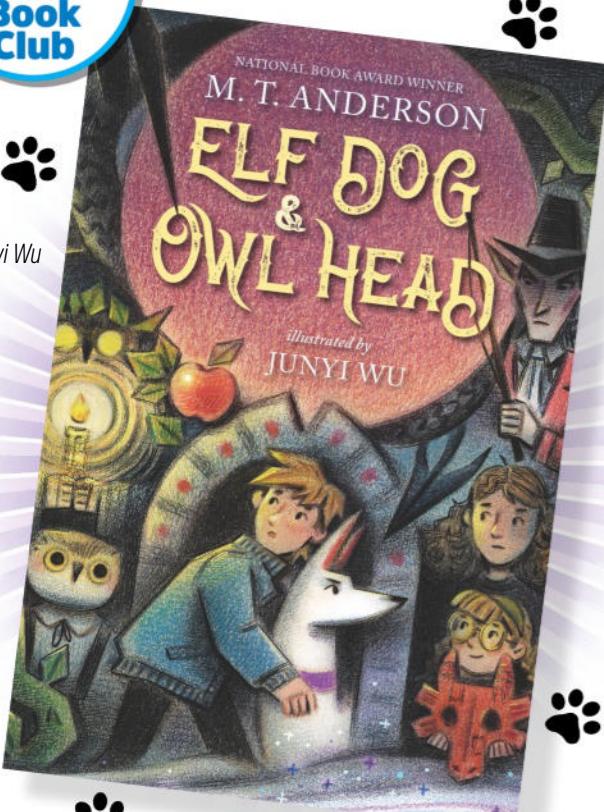
HERE'S OUR APRIL
BOOK CLUB PICK!

Elf Dog & Owl Head

By M.T. Anderson, illustrated by Junyi Wu (Candlewick Press)

When the pandemic shuts down school, Clay misses seeing his friends. His two sisters are also getting on his nerves. He walks into the woods near his house to play Frisbee by himself, which he knows is pointless. That's when he finds an unusual white dog with a jeweled collar. After playing fetch, Clay realizes there's something magical about the dog. She can retrieve the Frisbee without Clay seeing her do it. It's his first sign that the woods are enchanted. He soon learns that it holds magical paths, an underground kingdom, an owl-headed society, and a Giant. Clay returns home with the dog and tells his family the dog is an "elf-hound." Clay and Elf Dog have adventures in the woods. Several times, they run into unfriendly creatures. Clay gets help from his family and a new friend. Will Clay and his dog get to stay together?

This book's descriptions may make you feel like you're part of the action. Since the story is told in the third person, you'll learn about how all the characters feel. The ending is suspenseful and satisfying.



WIN A BOOK!

We're giving away one signed copy of *Elf Dog & Owl Head*.

For a chance to win, send your name and address to contests@theweekjunior.com with Elf Dog in the subject line. Enter by midnight on April 28. See theweekjunior.com/terms for complete rules.

Book club



Ask the author



The Week Junior spoke with M.T. Anderson, author of *Elf Dog & Owl Head*. He has also written graphic novels, nonfiction, and picture books.

Did you write this book during the pandemic?

Yes, the story takes place in the late spring and summer of 2020, and that's the exact time period when I was working on it.

What was your life like during that time?



I was living alone in a house in Vermont with no companions except for my beloved dog, LaRue, who died in 2021. LaRue was a strange-looking dog with long legs and giant ears, and she seemed very much like a magical dog. Every day, we would go on walks of five or six miles through the mountains.

When did you start writing books?

In middle school, I read a lot of fantasy novels and I started writing them too. When I was 16 years old, I wrote *The Game of Sunken Places*. I revised it many years later and it was finally published.



Were you influenced by Shakespeare?

As a kid, I really liked Shakespeare's play *A Midsummer Night's Dream* — not just because of the comedy but because of all the fairies in the forest.

What's a fun fact about you?

Last year, I helped return a stolen statue to a temple in Kathmandu, which is the capital of Nepal, a country in Southeast Asia.



What's the coolest item you have on your desk?

I have a coyote skull on my desk. My friend's dog dug it up. To the dog, it was just a bone.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR YOUR BOOK CLUB

Blending fantasy and realistic fiction, this novel takes place during the first few months of the pandemic in 2020. It lends itself to discussion with friends and family who have also read the story. Here are some questions to help get your book club conversation started.

Which of the three siblings in the story could you most relate to and why?



Do you think Clay should have helped Elf Dog return home? Why or why not?



How do the siblings' relationships with one another change during the summer?



What magical element from the book do you wish was real?

What do you think the drawings add to the story?



JOIN THE WEEK JUNIOR'S BOOK CLUB

Watch a special video M.T. Anderson created for *The Week Junior* and learn more about how our monthly book club works at kids.theweekjunior.com/bookclub.



**BONUS
ACTIVITY
SECTION**

How to...

Make tasty spring recipes

From breakfast to lunch, plus smoothies and treats, these delicious dishes are fun to whip up in the kitchen.

LEMON BERRY MUFFIN BITES

Ingredients

- Cooking spray
- 1 cup flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons granulated sugar
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 tablespoon poppy seeds
- ½ teaspoon lemon zest
- 6 tablespoons milk of your choice
- 1 egg, at room temperature
- ¾ teaspoon vanilla extract
- ¼ cup melted butter
- 1¼ cups fresh blueberries

DID YOU KNOW?

The word "muffin" comes from the German word *muffe*, which means soft bread.



WARNING!

Ask an adult's permission before using a blender, knife, oven, or stovetop for any of these recipes.

Instructions

1. Heat the oven to 350° F and coat a mini muffin pan with cooking spray.
2. In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder, brown sugar, granulated sugar, salt, poppy seeds, and lemon zest. Make sure to get rid of any lumps.
3. In a small bowl, whisk together the milk, egg, vanilla, and melted butter.
4. Pour the wet ingredient mixture into the dry mixture and stir to combine. Do not overmix. Fold in the blueberries.
5. Fill each mini muffin well with batter.
6. Bake until golden around the edges, about 15 minutes. A toothpick poked into the center of a muffin should come out clean.
7. Let cool for 5 minutes in the pan, then remove muffins from pan and place on a cooling rack to cool completely. Makes 2 dozen muffins.



FRESH HERB OMELET IN A MUG

Ingredients

- Cooking spray
- 2 eggs
- 3 fresh basil leaves, finely chopped
- 1 teaspoon finely chopped fresh cilantro
- 1 tablespoon crumbled feta cheese, plus more for garnish
- Kosher salt
- Black pepper

Instructions

1. Coat a 12- to 16-ounce microwave-safe mug with cooking spray. Add the eggs, herbs, and cheese, then season with salt and pepper. Whisk with a fork until well blended.
2. Microwave on high power for 1 minute. With an adult's help, remove the mug from the microwave and stir. Continue to cook in 15-second increments, stirring between each, until the egg is set. If you like, garnish with more feta. Eat immediately. Makes 1 omelet.

How to...



FLOWER POWER CUPCAKES

Ingredients

- 2 or 3 pieces green sour tape candy
- 12 unfrosted mini cupcakes, made from your favorite recipe or mix
- 6 tablespoons white frosting
- Round chewy tart candies
- Chocolate gem candies
- Oblong fruit jelly candies

Instructions

1. Trim the green sour tape into several leaves that are $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long.
2. Working with one cupcake at a time, cover it with $1\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons white frosting.
3. Create a flower shape using the chewy tart, gem, and oblong fruit jelly candies in whatever way you wish.
4. Add sour tape pieces to create leaves, as shown.
5. Continue decorating with the remaining cupcakes, frosting, and candies.

Makes 1 dozen cupcakes.



FRUIT BLAST SMOOTHIE

Ingredients

- 1 cup frozen strawberries
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup frozen mango
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup coconut milk
- 1 tablespoon agave
- Splash of vanilla

Instructions

1. Place all the ingredients in a blender and add $\frac{1}{4}$ cup water. Blend until smooth.
2. Divide evenly between two small glasses. Drink immediately. Makes about 2 cups.

TASTES GREAT
In the US, the most popular flavor for a smoothie is banana.





How to...

BUGGY CHOCOLATE BARK

Ingredients

- 10 ounces bittersweet chocolate chips
- Red and light green chocolate gem candies
- Green oblong fruit jelly candies
- Mini pretzels
- Black food marker
- Black pearl sprinkles
- Yellow candy-coated peanuts
- Sliced almonds
- Gummy worms
- Jumbo flower sprinkles
- Mini nonpareils



Instructions

1. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Place the chocolate chips in a microwave-safe bowl. Microwave at 50% power for 1 minute. With an adult's help, take the bowl out and stir to melt chocolate. Continue to heat in 10-second bursts, stirring between each, until fully melted. Pour the chocolate onto the parchment-lined baking sheet and spread into a rectangle that is $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick.
2. Make candy bugs and add them to the melted chocolate. For a ladybug, use the food marker to make spots on one side of a red chocolate gem.

Arrange it in the melted chocolate, then add a black pearl sprinkle head. For a bee, use the food marker to make stripes on a candy-coated peanut. Add it to the melted chocolate, and place sliced almonds for the wings. To make a dragonfly, place a row of 3 chocolate gems in the chocolate, then add a green fruit jelly candy for the tail and mini pretzels for wings.

3. Finally, add gummy worms, flower sprinkles, and nonpareils to the melted chocolate wherever you wish. Let the candy set before breaking it into pieces. Store in an airtight container for up to 3 days.

RAINBOW RICOTTA TOAST

Ingredients

- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup ricotta cheese
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- Garlic powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon dried parsley
- Kosher salt
- Black pepper
- 2 slices thick-cut whole grain bread, toasted
- 5 cherry tomatoes, chopped
- 1 small carrot, peeled and grated
- $\frac{1}{2}$ medium yellow bell pepper, chopped
- 1 small cucumber, chopped

Instructions

1. In a small bowl, stir together the ricotta, olive oil, 1 or 2 generous pinches of garlic powder, and the parsley. Season with salt and pepper and stir once more.
2. Evenly divide the ricotta mixture between the two slices of toast. Top each slice with half of each of the tomatoes, carrots, bell pepper, and cucumber, arranging the vegetables in rainbow order as shown. Eat immediately. Makes 2 servings.

VERY VEGGIE

Doctors recommend that kids eat about three cups of vegetables per day.



WARNING!

Ask an adult's permission before using a blender, knife, oven, or stovetop for any of these recipes.



CREAMY CARROT DIP

Ingredients

- 1 pound (about 3 to 4 large) carrots, peeled and cut into 1-inch chunks
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 2½ teaspoons kosher salt
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- 1 (15-ounce) can Great Northern beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 clove garlic, chopped
- 3 tablespoons tahini
- ¼ cup lemon juice (from about 2 lemons)
- Big pinch smoked paprika
- Crackers or cut vegetables, for serving

Instructions

1. Heat the oven to 425° F. Spread the carrots on a baking sheet and toss with 1 tablespoon olive oil. Season with ½ teaspoon salt and ¼ teaspoon pepper. Roast the carrots until they are tender and brown in spots, about 20 to 25 minutes.
2. Place the roasted carrots, beans, garlic, tahini, lemon juice, and remaining 2 tablespoons olive oil in a food processor. Add ½ cup water and blend until smooth. Add the remaining 2 teaspoons salt, ¼ teaspoon black pepper, and smoked paprika and blend once more. If the dip seems too thick, add more water, 1 tablespoon at a time, up to 2 tablespoons.
3. Transfer to a bowl and serve with crackers and your favorite cut vegetables, or store in an airtight container and refrigerate until ready to serve. Makes about 3 cups.

FUN FACT
It takes at least
540 peanuts to make
one 12-ounce jar of
peanut butter.

PEANUT BUTTER AND BERRY SMOOTHIE

Ingredients

- 1 cup frozen blueberries
- ½ banana
- 2 tablespoons peanut butter
- ¼ teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ cup milk of choice (we used oat)
- 1 tablespoon maple syrup
- Fresh blueberries (optional)

Instructions

1. Place all the ingredients in a blender and blend until smooth.
2. Divide evenly between two glasses. Garnish with fresh blueberries. Drink immediately. Makes about 2 cups.





SPECIAL
BONUS
SECTION

Puzzles



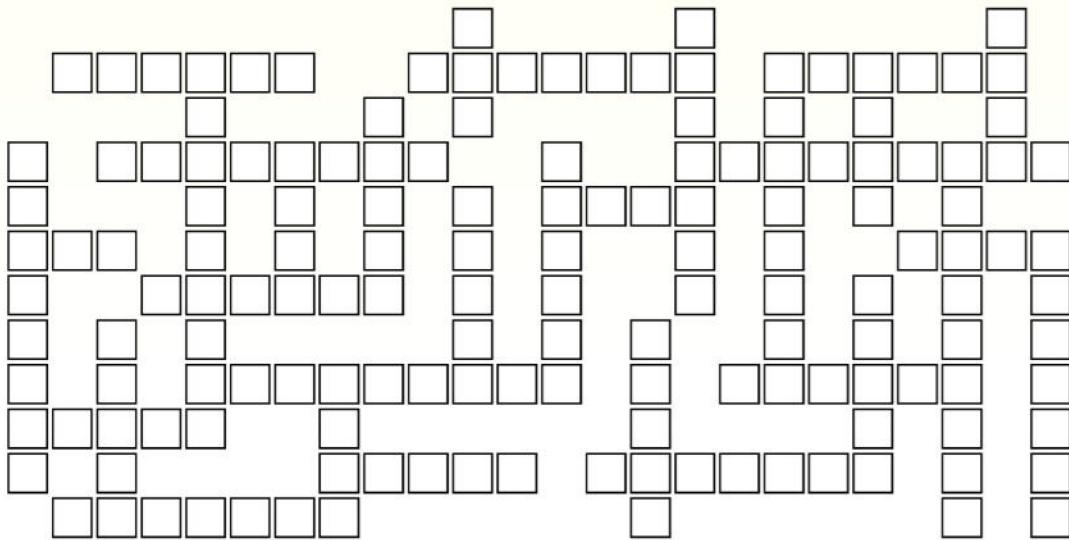
Super brain teasers

Double spring crisscrosses

This two-in-one spring puzzle features birds in the top grid and flowers in the bottom grid. Both the bird and flower names are mixed together in the list between the grids. To complete the two grids, use your knowledge of the birds and flowers you recognize, along with how all the words must be placed to fit into the grids.

ANSWERS
CAN BE
FOUND ON
PAGE 37.

BIRDS



3 letters

AUK

IBIS

IRIS

KITE

LOON

RAVEN

CRANE

HAWK

DAISY

EGRET

GOOSE

HERON

LILAC

ROBIN

STORK

DAISY

AZALEA

CUCKOO

DAHLIA

LUPINE

MAGPIE

ORCHID

6 letters

PIGEON

PLOVER

THRUSH

VIOLET

ZINNIA

7 letters

GRACKLE

JASMINE

PELICAN

SKYLARK

SPARROW

TANAGER

8 letters

CARDINAL

FLAMINGO

GERANIUM

HIBISCUS

HYACINTH

LARKSPUR

MAGNOLIA

MARIGOLD

PARAKEET

PRIMROSE

ALBATROSS

COLUMBINE

CORMORANT

DANDELION

EDELWEISS

GOLDFINCH

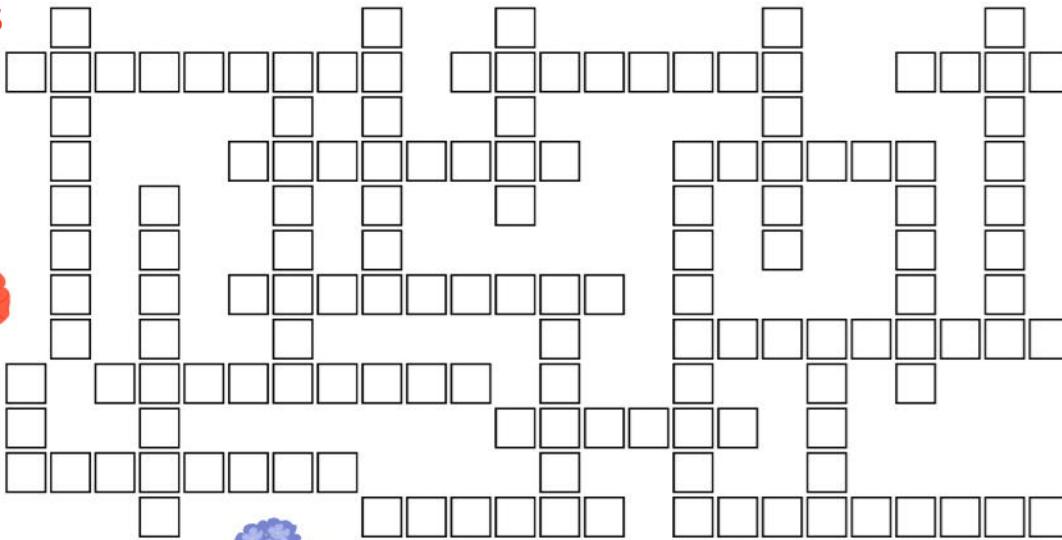
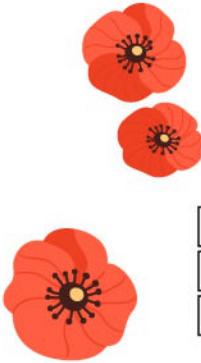
HYDRANGEA

NARCISSUS

PARTRIDGE

TIGER LILY

FLOWERS





DETAILS, DETAILS

Six pieces have been removed from this photo of tulips. Can you match the circular details under the photo with the numbered sections they came from?



A



B



C



D



E



F

ALPHA-PAIRS

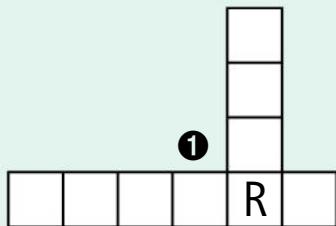
Finish the words by placing each letter of the alphabet in a different box. Some words can be completed with more than one letter choice, but there is only one way to complete the puzzle.

O	Y	O	U
L	M	O	N
I	T	T	E
S	E	F	U
S	O	M	A
U	E	A	S
E	L	I	E
I	G	Z	A
R	E	F	I
A	C	U	U
N	O	U	G
I	K	I	N
U	R	F	E

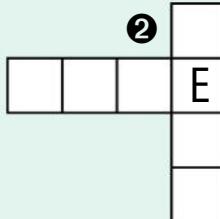
A B C D E F G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

This & that

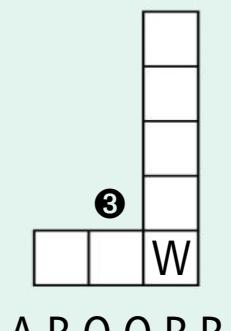
Use the letters given beneath each grid to fill in two words that are "and" pairs, like LOUD and CLEAR. The letter where the words cross is given.



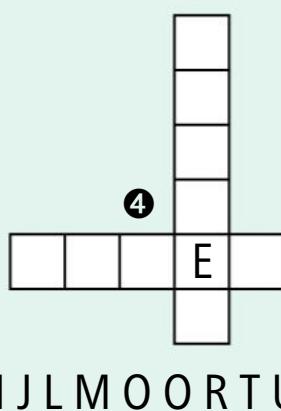
AAEFIQSU



DEHIKS



ABOORR



IJLMOORTU

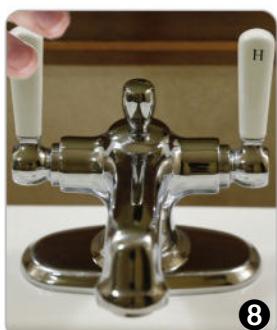
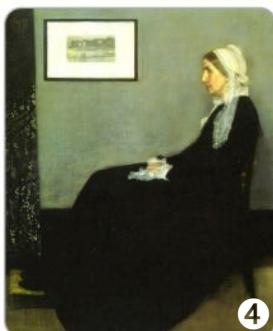


Puzzles



MIRROR, MIRROR

Each of these images is familiar, but some have been reversed from the way they are usually seen. Can you tell which ones are the mirror images?



JUGGLING ACT

Use the letters E, G, R in any order to complete each four-letter word.

E	G	R
	A	
O		
		W
A		
		M
U		

Jigsawdoku

To complete the grid in this unusual version of sudoku, place the numbers from 1 to 5 exactly once in each row, column, and jigsaw-style bold-lined box.

								1
3		5						
	4		5					
		2		3				
4								

Overlaps

For each word pair, answer each of the two clues by completing the word in the boxes below or above it. Doing that will form a third word in the white boxes. When you've filled in all the boxes, the four words in the middle will have something in common.

Black and white animal			1			
Z	E				T	
			Garment without sleeves			

Bread that's been heated			2			
T	O				E	S
			"___ are red ..."			

			3			
D	E	S	T			O
			And			

			4					
S					S	I	N	G
			French, blue cheese, or Thousand Island					



Puzzles



Great green word search

M I N T	U Y D O L L A R E E K	When you're done, read the remaining letters to get a bonus message.
K E R H S	M F A N V L N W D E Y L C C E	
C E A A	T R U O C S I N N E T N B O S E E	
F P L E O M P O E A G L A R N E A R M D G	I A G F G R A S S H O P P E R T M F A P G	
D R A G O N E R T E N T W S L A H E C R	D R A G O N E R T E N T W S L A H E C R	
I S A A D O Y J U N G L E O H A D T A B	I S A A D O Y J U N G L E O H A D T A B	
N P L L A P I C K L E E E O S S S K O P U O	N P L L A P I C K L E E E O S S S K O P U O	
C A A E P F G E H R E A F P E L N R E S G T	C A A E P F G E H R E A F P E L N R E S G T	
L H R	Y T R E B I L F O E U T A T S H H	
I E K	L M A N V O R H F A N O	
Y M O	I E E E M I	
E E T	T L T H H S E R S	
C O S	C O S T L T O R E	

ALGAE	FROG	JADE	NEW LEAF	SHAMROCK
BUSH	GECKO	JUNGLE	PARK	SHREK
CHIVES	GO LIGHT	KERMIT	PARSLEY	STATUE OF LIBERTY
DOLLAR	GRAPES	LAWN	PEAS	STEM
DRAGON	GRASSHOPPER	LILY PAD	PICKLE	TENNIS COURT
EMERALD	GRINCH	LIME	POND	THE HULK
FERN	GUACAMOLE	MINT	POOL TABLE	TORTOISE
FOREST	IVY	MOSS	SALAD	YODA



Spot the difference

These two pictures of kids enjoying recess appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?

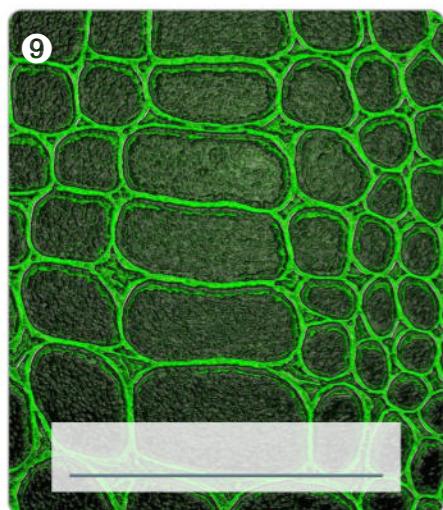
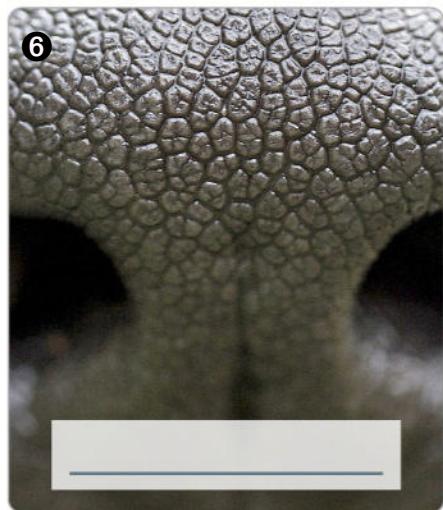
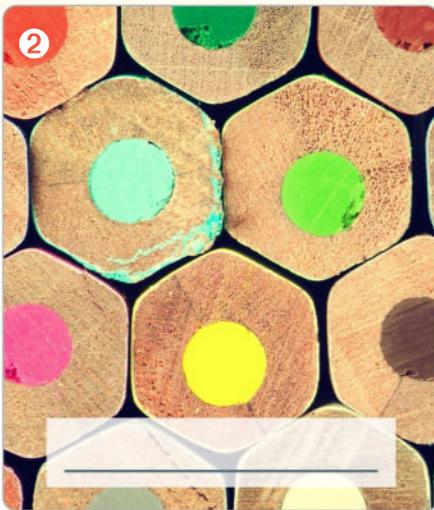
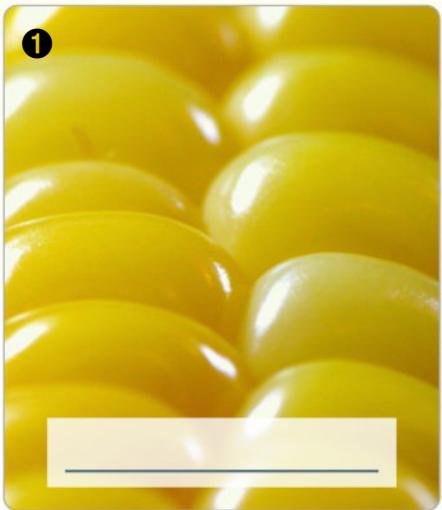




Puzzles

Up close

Each of these photos is an extreme close-up of something familiar. Can you recognize each one?





Puzzles



Rainy day word ladder

To change the word RAIN into the word COAT, use each clue to fill in a word that is only one letter different from the word before it. If you get stuck, try solving from the bottom up.

**RAIN**

Result of a stubbed toe	►	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Chess piece that appears most often on a chessboard	►	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Area around a house that turns brown if there's no rain	►	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Police enforce them	►	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Trips around a racetrack	►	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
___ lock (keyboard button)	►	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
"It's raining ___ ..." (start of a saying about a downpour)	►	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Foldaway beds	►	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
They are used in Morse code along with dashes	►	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
" ... and ___!" (end of a saying about a downpour)	►	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Goes for a leisurely run	►	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Occupations	►	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Large groups of people	►	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
It grows on trees in damp conditions	►	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Nearly all	►	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Information found on a price tag	►	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
		C	O	A	T

Find the match

Can you tell which two of these puddle jumpers are the same?



PATTERN PACK

Each of these four sequences forms a different kind of pattern. Can you figure out the next step in each one?





That's unbelievable!



The surprisingly valuable painting

Rare art found in family home

A family in France learned that a valuable piece of art had been hanging behind their door since 1900. The work, which is titled *L'Avocat du village* ("The Village Lawyer"), was painted by Pieter Brueghel the Younger in about 1615 and is estimated to be worth more than \$867,000. Malo de Lussac, who identified the artwork, said the family had no idea that the painting they had lived with for so many years was more than "just a bit of decoration."



These dogs didn't read the sign.

"No barking" in a dog park

Pet owners in Toronto, Canada, were baffled when a sign at a city dog park appeared to tell dogs not to bark. The sign asked visitors not to disturb neighbors and warned, "Excessive barking will not be tolerated." Owners wondered what would be considered "excessive" and how to explain to their pets that they were not allowed to bark at a park designed specifically for dogs. "I don't know why anyone would think this is a reasonable sign," said one owner. After receiving complaints, the city took down the sign.



Is the new cafe fun—or frightening?

Snacking on cake with a snake

It's no trick: The treats at a new cafe in Malaysia come with a side of slithering snakes. Like the scaly version of a cat cafe, the reptile restaurant offers a menu of more than 30 different desserts—plus the opportunity to handle lizards and snakes during the visit. Creator Yap Ming Yang wants to encourage people to appreciate reptiles as much as they love cats and dogs. He said he hopes reptiles will be seen as "another type of pet that you can keep and love."



Nick Stoeberl lapped up a world record.

An unusual game of Jenga

Nick Stoeberl of California developed a taste for fame when he won the world record for the longest tongue on a male in 2012. Now he has slurped up another Guinness World Records title: the fastest time to remove five blocks from the game Jenga...with his tongue. The time to beat was one minute, and Stoeberl licked the competition by removing the blocks in about 55 seconds. He said breaking records is "very fun" and added, "I looked at the [World Records] books as a kid, and so to be in them is just an honor—it's huge."

That's unbelievable!



Enjoying "The Big Slice"



Bakery serves giant pizza slices

Diners need a big appetite to tuck into a slice of pizza from LaManna's bakery in Canada. The huge slices are nearly three feet long (the length of a guitar), and each one comes in its own giant wedge-shaped box. Some of LaManna's slices are topped with doughnuts, churros, cookies, or jellybeans. But if pizza and sweets don't sound like an enticing combination, the "Big Slice" can also be made with regular pizza toppings.

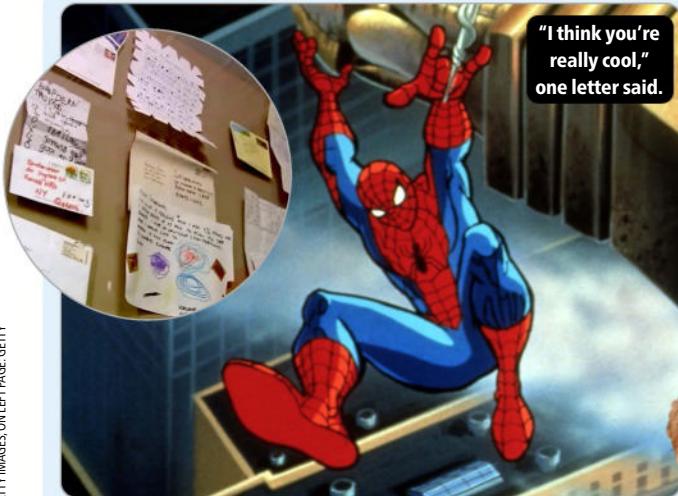
Dazza does some remodeling.



A high-end home for a frog

When a man known as Dazza found a frog living in his fence post, he used his 3D printer to build a tiny house for it. After he shared his project on TikTok, his followers named the frog Frodrick, or "Frod" for short, and began suggesting home improvements—so Dazza added a patio, a pool, and other upgrades. Before long, Frod was hosting frog parties and raising a family of tadpoles while the world watched. "Man," said one commenter, "this frog is living better than most of us."

"I think you're really cool," one letter said.



Letters sent to a superhero

For more than 30 years, the Parker family at 20 Ingram Street in Queens, New York, received hundreds of pieces of mail addressed to Peter Parker. The letters came from children around the world and often asked Peter questions or expressed their support. There was only one problem: Nobody named Peter lived there. The family just happened to share the same last name and address of Peter Parker, the fictional superhero known as Spider-Man. The Parkers donated the letters to the City Reliquary museum in New York City, where they were recently displayed in an exhibit titled *Dear Spider-Man*.

Real or fake?

Are the cats forced to go out?



Cats ordered to take a walk

Cat owners in Australia have been told to take their pets for walks because too many of them are overweight and not getting enough exercise, which is leading to health problems such as heart disease. Local authorities have implemented a rule requiring cats to be walked on a leash for at least 20 minutes a day and fining owners up to \$195 if they don't comply. So what do you think? Is this cat tale true, or have we concocted a feline fiction?*

*Fake! Instead of forcing cats to go outside, authorities in Australia are making them stay indoors because they kill so many birds and small animals. In some areas, the feral, free-roaming felines can go out only briefly and must be kept on a leash.



Your turn

Editor's note

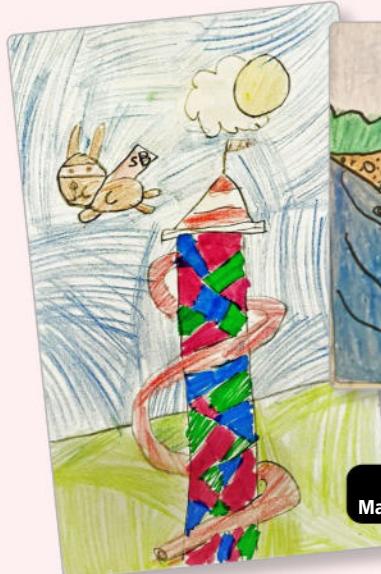


The night before this issue went to press, the University of Connecticut men's basketball team clinched the national title—and cheers erupted in my house (p18). That's because UConn is my son's favorite college team and he was so excited for this victory. He chose UConn to win in the tournament bracket he filled out and wore the same UConn T-shirt and hat while watching each game the team played in. I guess the gear was good luck! I'm happy for my son, for UConn, for Louisiana State University for winning the women's tournament for the first time, and for every team that gave their all this season. Cheers, also, to legendary sportscaster Jim Nantz, who retired as the voice of the tournament after the game. "Everybody has a dream, everybody has a story to tell. Just try to find that story," he said as he signed off. That's great advice for all of us.

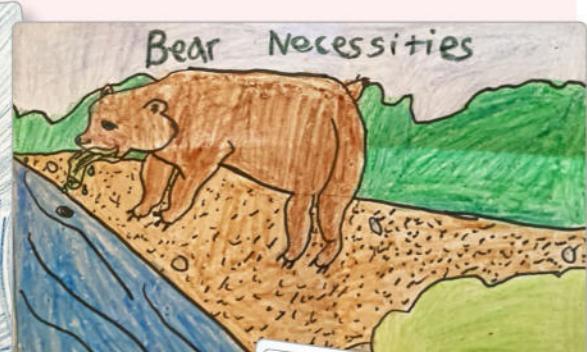
Andrea Barbalich
Editor-in-Chief

YOUR COMICS

Thank you to everyone who has submitted a comic! If you would like to create one to send to us, get the form at kids.theweekjunior.com/activities.



Molly, 12,
Missouri



Nico, 8,
Massachusetts



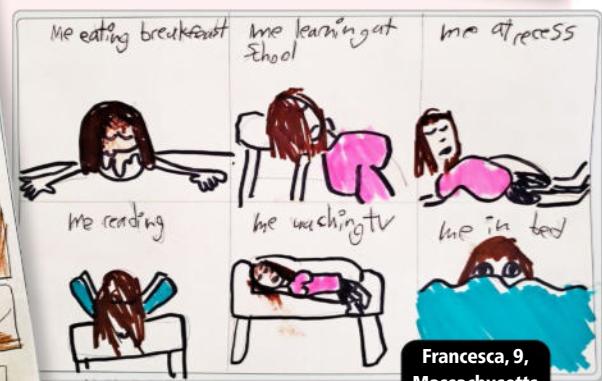
Makenzi,
11, Utah



Claire, 8,
North Carolina



Oliver, 10,
New York



Francesca, 9,
Massachusetts

CHARITY OF THE WEEK



America's ToothFairy

This organization works to ensure that all children have access to quality dental healthcare. It donates money and equipment to nonprofit dental clinics and provides financial assistance to families who can't afford treatments. The group has contributed more than \$23 million toward helping people with their oral hygiene since its founding in 2006. Find out more at americastoothfairy.org.



THE WEEK Junior **IT'S YOUR TURN**

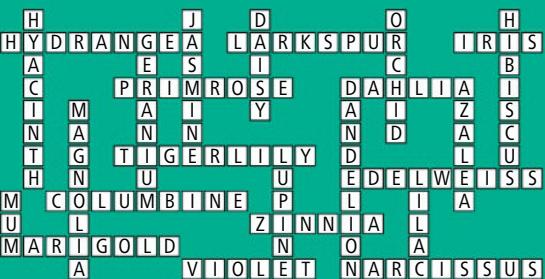
Email your news, views, and photos to hello@theweekjunior.com.

Puzzle and quiz answers



SUPER BRAIN TEASERS (pages 28–33)

Double spring crisscrosses



Alpha-pairs

joyous
almond
kitten
useful
tomato
queasy
relief
zigzag
prefix
vacuum
enough
bikini
curfew

This & that

1 S Q U A R E **2** H I D E **3** B O W **4** R O M E O

Overlaps

The answers are all Major League Baseball teams:
1 Braves (zeBRA/VEST)
2 Astros (toAST/ROSES)
3 Royals (destROY/ALSO)
4 Padres (sPA/DRESSing)

Mirror, mirror

The images that are reversed are:

3, 5, 6, 7, 8

Juggling act

gear
ogre
grew
rage
germ
urge

Details, details



Spot the difference



Pattern pack

1 Each time a yellow dot appears, the number of pink dots increases by one. The last yellow dot is followed by four pink ones.

2 Each shape appears together three times, so the last shape is a triangle. Four colors repeat in this order: pink, yellow, blue, white, so that last triangle is white.

3 In the first four, the colors move counterclockwise around the squares. In the last four, they reverse direction.

4 The shapes and colors of the first two symbols are combined in the third. This pattern happens four times. The red diamond, combined with the yellow circle, makes an orange circle/diamond.

Up close

1 corn on the cob **2** colored pencils
3 butterfly wing **4** shell **5** red cabbage
6 dog's nose **7** pliers
8 bread (baguette) **9** crocodile skin

Rainy day word ladder

RAIN
rain
pawn
lawn
laws
laps
caps
CATS
cats
dots
DOGS
dogs
jobs
mobs
moss
most
cost
COAT

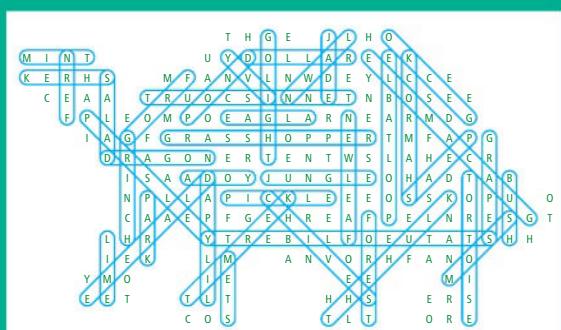
Find the match

Numbers 2 and 5 are the same.



Great green word search

Unused letters: The human eye can see more different shades of green than of any other color.



Quiz answers (from page 38)

1 True **2** b) A Frisbee **3** South Africa **4** c) Mark McGwire **5** Seder **6** a) Grocery shopping **7** False. It is the third. **8** c) Theropods **9** Moai **10** a) Iowa **11** b) Lake Superior Zoo **12** True
13 Mushroom Kingdom **14** b) 1897 **15** True



Quiz of the week

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 True or false? A family in Queens has been receiving mail kids sent to Spider-Man.

True False

2 In the book *Elf Dog & Owl Head*, what does the magical dog first fetch for Clay?

a) A bone b) A Frisbee c) A tennis ball

a b c

3 Tiny white huts are being built to protect African penguins in what country?

4 The most expensive baseball ever sold was a home run ball hit by which player?

a) Aaron Judge b) Sammy Sosa

c) Mark McGwire

a b c

5 What is the name of the special dinner on the first two nights of Passover?

6 Scientists predicted that robots are most likely to take over which task by 2033?

a) Grocery shopping b) Cleaning c) Laundry

a b c

7 True or false? The National Women's Soccer League is the first full women's soccer league added to FIFA 23.

True False

8 T. rexes and velociraptors belonged to a group of dinosaurs known as what?

a) Sauropods b) Ornithopods c) Theropods

a b c



9 What are the massive statues of humanlike figures on the island of Rapa Nui called?

10 Which team did Louisiana State University defeat to win the NCAA women's basketball national title?

a) Iowa b) Virginia Tech

c) South Carolina

a b c

11 Pygmy slow lorises were recently born at which zoo?

a) Nashville Zoo

b) Lake Superior Zoo

c) Oregon Zoo

a b c

12 True or false? Zaila Avant-garde was the first Black American to win the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

True False

13 In which kingdom is the series of video games starring Mario set?

14 In what year was the first Boston Marathon held?

a) 1896 b) 1897 c) 1924

a b c

15 True or false? A rescue cat named Crash has been chosen to be the 2023 Cadbury Bunny.

True False

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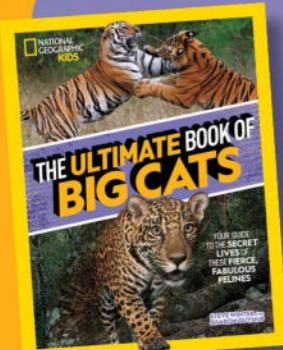
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COOL CAMOUFLAGE

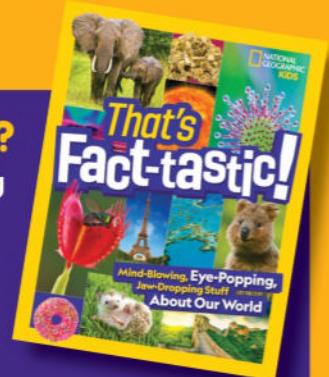
Tigers have striped fur AND striped skin!

Discover big cats around the world and how they adapt to their unique environments.



DID YOU KNOW?

A giraffe's eye is as big as a ping-pong ball?



Discover more fascinating facts, silly stats, and catch little knowledge nuggets to share with your friends.

Discover more fascinating facts, silly stats, and catch little knowledge nuggets to share with your friends.

YIKES, WATCH OUT!

Which snake is considered the world's deadliest?



The Black Mamba. But also meet more deadly creatures who use toxins, venom, fangs, and stingers.

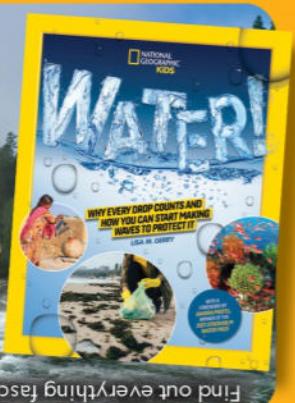
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The Black Mamba. But also meet more deadly creatures who use toxins, venom, fangs, and stingers.

The Black Mamba. But also meet more deadly creatures who use toxins, venom, fangs, and stingers.

GUESS WHAT?

You're drinking the same water the DINOSAURS drank!



WANNA BE A KNOW-IT-ALL?

Who wore animal skins and howled like wolves on the battlefield?



Vikings! Find out how the Middle Ages were wilder than you thought.

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Vikings! Find out how the Middle Ages were wilder than you thought.

SNIFF OUT SOME DOGGY DETAILS.

A dog's floppy jowls help send scents to its nose.



Sit. Stay. And check out the ultra-mutt book for dog-lovers.



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